

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-16 and 18-48 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 15, 30, and 34-36 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 3-11, 14-16, 18-24, and 26-38 are sought to be amended. New claims 39-48 are sought to be added. Applicant further seeks to amend the Specification as noted above. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Telephone Interview Held January 21, 2010

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the telephone interview held on January 21, 2010 between the Examiner and Applicant's representative. During the interview, the parties discussed the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

The Examiner requested clarification of the word "permission" as used in the claims, either through amendment of the claims or the specification. The Examiner alleged that the word "permission" has meaning in the art that renders its usage unclear in the context of the current application, and invited Applicant to either clarify the claim or amend the specification to further define this term. No agreement on a particular amendment was reached.

Additionally, the Examiner agreed that the arguments presented below with regard to Futagami would overcome the rejection. The Examiner additionally invited Applicant to clarify features directed to approval of a requested security change, which Applicant provides herein by way of dependent claims 39-44.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative should any further amendments become apparent that would better place the claims in condition for allowance, or if any further discussion is needed to otherwise advance prosecution.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-16 and 18-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Specifically, the Examiner cites to the language, "the security change being used for determining access rights comprising permission to retrieve an electronic file from within a secure file store," as recited in claim 1, on page 3 of the Office Action. Support for this claim feature is found, *inter alia*, at paragraph [0034] and FIG. 2 of the Published Application.

As noted in the above Interview Summary, the Examiner requested further clarification of the term "permission" as used in the claims. Applicant has amended the Specification at paragraphs [0027] and [0028] to clarify usage of the term "permission" in a manner that is believed to introduce no new matter. Entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Additionally, the Examiner requests identification of support for claims 37 and 38 that were newly added in the previous Amendment. Support for these claims is found, *inter alia*, at the above-referenced sections as well as at paragraph [0032] of the Published Application.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the claims comply with the written description requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and respectfully requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-16 and 18-38.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4, 15, 30, 37, and 38

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4, 15, 30, 37, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,754,665 to Futagami et al. ("Futagami") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0156726 to Kleckner et al. ("Kleckner"), further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0062240 to Morinville ("Morinville"). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "receiving a request for the security change from a requestor, the security change being used for determining access rights comprising permission to ***retrieve an electronic file from within a secure file store.***" The combination of Futagami, Kleckner, and Morinville does not teach, suggest, or disclose at least this feature of claim 1. Kleckner and Morinville do not teach, suggest, or disclose the aforementioned feature of claim 1, nor does the Examiner rely on Kleckner and Morinville as allegedly teaching, suggesting, or disclosing the aforementioned feature of claim 1. Instead, the Examiner relies on Futagami.

Futagami is directed to transmitting a "restriction removal inquiry message" to an owner of retrieved personal information in order "to inquire whether to permit the access restriction information to be changed in response to the restriction removal request such that the requester is permitted to access the ***personal information***." (Futagami, 16:7-32).

The Examiner argues that "[u]ser personal information is stored in a file (see for example col. 18 lines 7-25, and the file system is secured," as well as that "the personal information is stored on vcards, which is a file." (Office Action, p. 4). Even assuming, *arguendo*, the Examiner's characterizations, Futagami is concerned only with providing ***personal information*** contained within any such file, and not the file itself, and therefore does not teach or suggest "receiving a request for the security change from a requestor, the security change being used for determining access rights comprising permission to ***retrieve an electronic file from within a secure file store***," as recited in claim 1. Even if the request in Futagami produces, *arguendo*, a file, such as a vCard, it is not the "electronic file from within a secure file store," but some separate file ***created*** from information from the secure file store.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is not rendered obvious by the combination of Futagami, Kleckner, and Morinville. Claims 15 and 30 recite analogous features to claim 1, using respective language (although claims 1, 15, and 30 have different scope), and are also not rendered obvious by the combination of Futagami, Kleckner, and Morinville. Claims 4, 37, and 38 depend from claim 1, and are also not rendered obvious by the combination of Futagami, Kleckner, and Morinville for at least the same reasons as claim 1, and further in view of their own respective features.

Accordingly, the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness over the combination of Futagami, Kleckner, and Morinville, and Applicant

Reply to Office Action of October 27, 2009

respectfully requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4, 15, 30, 37, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 2, 3, 5-14, 16, 18-29, and 31-36

The Examiner has rejected claims 2, 3, 5-14, 16, 18-29, and 31-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Futagami, Kleckner, and Morinville, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,131,071 to Gune et al. ("Gune"). Applicant respectfully traverses.

As stated above with regard to independent claims 1, 15, and 30, the combination of Futagami, Kleckner, and Morinville does not teach or suggest each and every feature of the aforementioned independent claims. Gune does not supply the missing teaching or suggestion with respect to at least the above-noted distinguishing features of these claims. Thus, Gune fails to cure the deficiencies of Futagami, Kleckner, and Morinville, as noted above with regard to claims 1, 15, and 30. Accordingly, claims 1, 15, and 30 are not rendered obvious by the combination of Futagami, Kleckner, Morinville, and Gune.

Claims 2, 3, 5-14, 16, 18-29, and 31-33 are not rendered obvious by the combination of Futagami, Kleckner, Morinville, and Gune for at least the same reasons as claims 1, 15, and 30, from which they respectively depend, and further in view of their own respective features.

Also, independent claims 34-36 similarly recite, using respective language, "determining whether it remains possible for a quorum of the approvers to approve the requested security change for each response received from the approvers," as recited,

using respective language, in claims 1, 15, and 30. Claims 34-36 are therefore also not rendered obvious by Futagami, Kleckner, Morinville, and Gune for similar reasons as independent claims 1, 15, and 30, and further in view of their additional distinguishing features.

Accordingly, the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness over the combination of Futagami, Kleckner, Morinville, and Gune, and Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2, 3, 5-14, 16, 18-29, and 31-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

New Claims

Claims 39-44

Applicant respectfully seeks entry of new claims 39-44. Claim 39 recites, *inter alia*, "determining, for at least one response received from the approvers, whether it remains possible for a quorum of the approvers to approve the requested security change." Claims 40-44 recite analogous features, using respective language. Support for this claim amendment is found, *inter alia*, at paragraph [0051] of the Published Specification. The combination of Futagami, Kleckner, and Morinville does not teach or suggest at least this feature of claim 39.

In forming a rejection to claim 1, the Examiner indicates a reliance on Kleckner, on page 5 of the Office Action, to allegedly teach or suggest "identifying a plurality of approvers to approve or disapprove of the requested security change by accessing an approver set in an approval manager module," as recited in claim 1, to which Applicant does not acquiesce. The Examiner cites particularly to the Klecker disclosure of "by

requiring at least two security officers within an organization to approve policy changes, a single security officer is unable to unilaterally change the organization's security policy." (Kleckner at [0131]).

Even assuming, *arguendo*, to which Applicant does not acquiesce, that Kleckner provides for the use of a plurality of approvers to change a security policy, nowhere does Kleckner discuss the use of a quorum in this process. Accordingly, Kleckner does not provide any teaching or suggestion of "**determining**, for at least one response received from the approvers, *whether it remains possible* for a quorum of the approvers to approve the requested security change," as recited in claim 39, as such determination would find no basis in Kleckner on which to operate.

Accordingly, for at least the aforementioned reasons, Applicant respectfully requests the entry and allowance of claims 39-44.

Claims 45-48

Applicant respectfully seeks entry of new claims 45-48. Claims 45-48 are directed to claim language deleted from amended independent claims 1, 30, 34, and 36, and depend on these claims, respectively.

Accordingly, for at least the aforementioned reasons, Applicant respectfully requests the entry and allowance of claims 45-48.

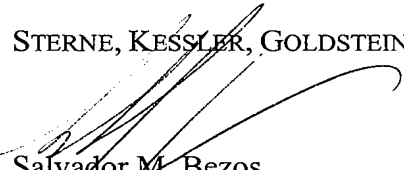
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Salvador M. Bezos
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 60,889

Date: 28 JAN 2010

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

1047445_1.DOC